

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 17-26, and 28 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 11, 17, and 26 being independent. By this amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 10, 14, 16, 29, 31, 35, and 38-45, and amended claims 1, 8, 11, 17, 24, and 26.

Claim 1-11, 13, 14, 16-26, 28, 29, 31, 35, and 38-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,029,182 (Nehab, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0023246 (Vidyanand). Applicant traverses this rejection.

As recited in independent claim 1, Applicant's invention is directed to an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image based on data generated by an external apparatus. The apparatus includes a sending unit which sends to the external apparatus acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to a recording medium having a predetermined size. An acquisition unit acquires the data for output generated by the external apparatus, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on the acquisition information and layout information sent by the sending unit.

Independent claim 17 recites features generally similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

As recited in independent claim 11, Applicant's invention is also directed to an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image based on data generated by an external apparatus. That apparatus includes a reception unit adapted to receive layout information including information on a recording medium having a first size. The apparatus also includes a changing unit for changing layout information received by the reception unit to layout information related to a recording medium having a second size different from the first size. A sending unit sends, from the image formation apparatus to the external apparatus, the layout information changed by the changing unit so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output. An acquisition unit acquires the data for output generated by the external apparatus, which is based on the layout information sent by the sending unit.

Independent claim 26 recites features generally similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 11.

Thus, the present invention, as variously recited in the independent claims, is directed to an image forming apparatus sending layout information to an external apparatus and then acquiring back data for output generated by the external apparatus, where the data from the external apparatus is generated based on layout information provided by the image forming apparatus.

Nehab, et al. is directed to a system for generating a custom formatted hypertext document. That document describes the use of a disk 5 and web printer 17. Applicant submits, however, that disk 5 does not correspond to the image forming

apparatus of the present invention because disk 5 does not output any image on a recording medium. Thus, if web printer 17 were to correspond to the external apparatus, disk 5 would not acquire data for output from the web printer 17 of Nehab, et al.

In addition, if web printer 17 is argued to correspond to the image forming apparatus of the present invention, the rejection is still not proper. Specifically, web printer 17 does not output any image on a recording medium. Also, even if disk 5, printer 7, or display 2 were to correspond to the external apparatus, web printer 17 does not send layout information to any one of disk 5, printer 7, or display 2. Moreover, disk 5, printer 7, and display 2 do not generate data for output based on acquisition information and layout information sent by web printer 17.

Vidyanand is cited in the Office Action as describing layout information which includes information on a recording medium having a predetermined size. Applicant submits, however, that Vidyanand fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Nehab, et al.

Thus, regardless of whether web printer 17 is taken as the external apparatus and disk 5 is taken as the image forming apparatus, or vice versa, Nehab, et al. and Vidyanand do not suggest the features of the present invention. Specifically, Nehab, et al. and Vidyanand, taken alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of sending, from an image forming apparatus to an external apparatus, acquisition information and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on data to the recording medium having a predetermined size, acquiring data for output generated by the

external apparatus, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on the acquisition information and the layout information sent by the image forming apparatus, as generally recited in independent claims 1 and 17. In addition, those documents fail to disclose or suggest the features of sending, from an image forming apparatus to an external apparatus, changed layout information so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output, and acquiring data for the output generated by the external apparatus based on the layout information sent by the image forming apparatus, as generally recited in independent claims 11 and 26.

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above. Those dependent claims should be considered allowable for the reasons discussed with respect to the independent claims, and should also be considered individually based on the additional features which further distinguish them from the applied documents.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now submitted to be in allowable form. Therefore, Applicant requests early passage to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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